

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 52 of 1895.

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th December 1895.

CONTENTS:

Page.	Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.	
Nil.	
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.	
(a)— <i>Police</i> —	
A case of mysterious disappearance in the Bankura district ... 1201	
The police and cases of outrage upon females at the Mymensingh district ... ib	
Oppression by military grass-cutters at Mahestala in the 24-Parganas district ... ib	
The Police Sub-Inspector of Mahestala in the 24-Parganas ... ib	
The chaukidari system ... ib	
Cabuli oppression in the Murshidabad district ... ib	
Cubuli oppression in the mufassal ... 1202	
<i>Budmashes</i> at Jayanagar in the 24-Parganas district ib	
Gunda oppression in Calcutta ... ib	
(b)— <i>Working of the Courts</i> —	
The proposed abolition of a Munsifi in the Noakhali district ... ib	
A severe sentence in the Bankura district ... ib	
The Katwa Munsifi ... ib	
Mr. Fisher, Joint-Magistrate of the 24-Pargans ... 1203	
Two Honorary Magistrates of Kushtia... ib	
Exaction of illegal gratification by court peons in the Murshidabad district ... ib	
The inconvenient situation of the civil courts in Berhampore ... ib	
Civil appeals in the Murshidabad district ... ib	
The Indian jurors ... 1204	
Sir Charles Elliott and Mr. Warde-Jones ... ib	
Mr. Phillips ... ib	
Babu Gosain Das, Subdivisional Officer of Nowrang in the Rajshahi district ... ib	
(c)— <i>Education</i> —	
The Khanekah Madrassa ... 1205	
The Campbell Medical School and Hospital ... ib	
Head-examiners for the Calcutta University examinations ... 1206	
Mr. Prothero as head-examiner ... ib	
Urdu as a second language in the University examination in the North-Western Provinces ... ib	
The recent class examinations in the Medical College. ib	
(d)— <i>Jails</i> —	
Nil.	
(e)— <i>Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration</i> —	
Water scarcity in the Mymensingh district ... 1207	
The silting up of a river in the Mymensingh district ... ib	
The Calcutta Municipality ... ib	
An embezzlement case in the Debhata Municipality in the Khulna district ... ib	
(f)— <i>Questions affecting the land</i> —	
Nil.	
(g)— <i>Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation</i> —	
Grievances of female passengers on Indian Railways 1208	
Ticket collectors on Indian railways ... ib	
(h)— <i>General</i> —	
How to check cooly-recruiting abuses ... ib	
Income-tax assessment in the Bankura district ... 1209	
Lord Elgin and the representation of the people's grievances ... ib	
Lord Elgin's administration ... ib	
An allegation against Mr. Lyon, Settlement Officer of Muzaffarpur ... 1210	
Wanted two post-offices in the Mymensingh district ib	
Income-tax administration ... ib	
An illegal Act of the Sub-Registrar of Berhampore ib	
Sir Alexander Mackenzie ... ib	
The new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal ... 1211	
Sir Charles Elliott and guilty officials ... 1212	
The repeal of the cotton duties ... ib	
The Kushtia treasury ... ib	
The new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal ... 1213	
The administration of the Arms Act in Barisal ... ib	
The British rule in India ... ib	
Sir Alexander Mackenzie ... 1214	
The State Church in India ... 1215	
The new Lieutenant-Governor ... ib	
Sir Alexander Mackenzie and defects in the criminal administration ... ib	
The <i>Amrita Bazar Patrika</i> 's advice to the Viceroy 1216	
Sir Alexander Mackenzie at the Civil Service Dinner ib	
Military manoeuvres in Shapur in the 24-Parganas district ... ib	
III.— <i>LEGISLATIVE</i> .	
A poem on the Pilgrim Ships Act ... ib	
The proposed amendment of the Sea Emigration Act ... 1217	
The Central National Muhammadan Association and the draft rules under the Pilgrim Ships Act ... ib	
IV.— <i>NATIVE STATES</i> .	
Nil.	
V.— <i>PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE</i> .	
Public health and crop prospects in the Bankura district ... ib	
Prospects of crops in the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district ... ib	

	Page.		Page.
VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.			
The price of a native's life ...	1218	Budmashes in a certain portion of the Grand Trunk	
The conflict of interests between England and India ...	ib	Road in Orissa ...	1220
Prestige of Englishmen in India ...	1219	The question of reviving the salt industry in Orissa ...	ib
Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the Musalmans ...	ib	Settlement operations in Orissa producing disputes...	ib
Cholera in Vikrampur ...	ib	Proposed payment of pensions by money-orders ...	ib
Sir Alexander Mackenzie ...	ib	The Sanitary Drainage Act not to be enforced	
Malaria at Daulatpur in Manikgang, Dacca district ...	ib	hastily ...	ib
Health and crops in Syampur in the Howrah district ...	ib	Cholera in Balasore ...	ib
		The vesting of certain Subordinate Judges with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge ...	ib
		The new rent receipt form for Orissa ...	1221
URIYA PAPERS.			
The Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill ...	1220		
Hindi substituted for Uriya as the Court language in Sambalpur ...	ib	ASSAM PAPERS.	
		The Honorary Magistrates in Sylhet ...	ib
		The Sylhet Jail ...	ib
		The falsifying of public records in Sylhet ...	1222

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto	5,000	20th December 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	20,000	21st ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto	.....	24th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto	4,000	20th ditto.	
5	"Kumari Patrika" ...	Ditto	.....	
6	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto	.....	21st ditto.	
7	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto	About 500	18th ditto.	
8	"Samay" ...	Ditto	4,000	20th ditto.	
9	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto	3,000	21st ditto.	
10	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto	800		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto	200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200	19th and 22nd to 24th December 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto	500		
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto	1,000	20th and 21st and 23rd and 25th December 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	800	19th December 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto	9,000		
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Dainik Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto	.....	20th to 22nd December 1895.	

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	PERSIAN.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Hubbul Mateen "	Calcutta	....	26th December 1895.	
	URDU.				
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto	About 400	19th December 1895.	
2	" General and Gauhariasfi "	Ditto	," 300	16th ditto.	
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
1	" Bankura Darpan "	Bankura	," 500	16th ditto.	
2	" Ulubaria Darpan "	Ulubaria	," 298		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Burdwan Sanjivani "	Burdwan	350 to 400	17th and 24th December 1895.	
2	" Chinsura Vartavaha "	Chinsura	500	22nd December 1895.	
3	" Darsak "	Ditto	....	22nd ditto.	
4	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly	754	20th ditto.	
	BENGALI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Ghosak "	Khulna	350		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Murshidabad Hitaishi "	Murshidabad	280	18th December 1895.	
2	" Murshidabad Pratinidhi "	Berhampore	200		
3	" Pratikar "	Ditto	603	20th ditto.	
	URIYA.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Brahma "	Cuttack	....	
2	" Indradhanu "	Ditto	....	
3	" Shikshabandhu "	Ditto	....	
4	" Utkalprabha "	Mayurbhunj	....	....
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Sambalpur Hitaishini "	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	....	....
2	" Samvad Vahika "	Balasore	190	14th and 21st November 1895.	
3	" Uriya and Navasamvad "	Ditto	309	13th and 20th November 1895.	
4	" Utkal Dipika "	Cuttack	412	16th and 23rd November 1895.	
	HINDI.				
	<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Bihar Bandhu "	Bankipur	500		
	<i>Weekly.</i>				
1	" Aryavarta "	Dinapur	1,000		

Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered.

This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
	URDU.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch"	Bankipur	500	28th November 1895.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya	400	16th December 1895.	
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur	150		
	BENGALI.				
	Weekly.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.			
1	"Bagura Darpan"	Bogra	.....	
2	"Hindu Ranjika"	Boalia, Rajshahi	283	18th December 1895.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash"	Kakina, Rangpur	300		
	HINDI.				
	Monthly.				
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling	150		
	BENGALI.				
	Fortnightly.	DACCA DIVISION.			
1	"Kasipur Nivasi"	Kasipur, Barisal	280	14th December 1895.	
	Weekly.				
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	900	17th December 1895.	
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca	450		
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Do.	250	21st ditto.	
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca	500	19th ditto.	
	ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
	Weekly.				
1	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca	500	23rd December 1895.	
	BENGALI.	CHITTAGONG DIVISION.			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Tripura Prakash"	Comilla	.....	
	Weekly.				
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong	120		
	BENGALI.	ASSAM.			
	Fortnightly.				
1	"Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi"	Sylhet	.....	1st fortnight of Pous, 1302B.S.	

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE Bankura Darpan of the 16th December says that one Jamuna

A case of mysterious disappearance in the Bankura district. Layekani of Ramchandrapur in the Bankura district has not been heard of since the 8th December last.

The police says that some family quarrels led her to leave her home, and a search is being made for her in her relatives' houses. But the writer will venture to ask if cooly-recruiters have nothing to do with her mysterious disappearance.

2. The *Charu Mihir* of the 17th December censures the remissness which

The police and cases of outrage upon females in the Mymensingh district. was displayed by the Mymensingh police in the first stage of the investigation into the Kedarpur outrage case, and says that it is through the exertions of a

number of private individuals that one of the culprits has been brought to justice.

The District Magistrate, the District Superintendent of Police, and the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail are requested to adopt measures for putting down the *badmashes* who are so frequently committing outrage upon females in this district. The people fear to give information against them lest they should incur their displeasure and be subjected to greater persecutions. 'The *badmashes* implicated in the Kedarpur case have threatened to take revenge upon several villagers for giving evidence against them.

3. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 20th December observes that,

Oppression by military grass-cutters at Mahestala in the 24. thanks to the Government, the people of Mahestala, in the 24-Parganas district, have been delivered from Parganas district.

are not entirely safe. The military grass-cutters have been ordered to cut the grass growing on both sides of the railway line in Budge-Budge, but in order to annoy the neighbouring villagers, they drive any cattle they may find grazing on the *maidan* where they cut grass, to their own quarters. On the 10th December last they found a calf grazing on the said *maidan*, and were forcibly taking it away, when the owner interfered. The military grass-cutters at once turned against the owner, and would have ill-treated him if the Sub-Inspector of the local police-station had not forced them to give up the calf.

4. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th December says that 'the Magistrate of the

The Police Sub-Inspector of Mahestala in the 24-Parganas. 24-Parganas has again entitled himself to the thanks of the people of Mahestala. Moved by the Police Sub-

Inspector of the place, the Magistrate has ruled that Englishmen who may go to that place to hunt, should not henceforth enter upon any land without the owner's permission. So long Englishmen out sporting used to damage crops at their pleasure by entering upon any land they pleased for the purpose of sporting. The Sub-Inspector also checked a party of grass-cutters who were carrying away a calf from the village. He has also adopted measures against the recurrence of such oppression. The Sub-Inspector is earning the gratitude of the villagers by acts like these.

5. The *Pratikar* of the 20th December says that the chaukidari system

The chaukidari system. is working less and less satisfactorily in the mufassal. The new Chaukidari Act seems to be

wholly responsible for this. The chaukidars now pay little respect to the villagers, and are satisfied if they can only please the darogas. As for the panchayet, he seems more to be a subordinate of the chaukidars than their controlling officer. If he makes the least delay in paying the chaukidars, they at once report the matter to the thana, and have steps taken to realise their salaries by the sale of his property. But in spite of all this punctuality in paying the chaukidars' salaries, their voice is seldom heard at night.

6. The same paper complains of oppression in the Murshidabad district

Cabuli oppression in the Murshidabad district. committed by Cabulis who come to sell winter clothing. These men readily sell their articles on credit, nay, even insist upon people taking them

telling that the price may be paid afterwards, but commit great *zulum* in realising their dues. In many instances their *zulum* has led to a breach of the

BANKURA DARPARAN,

Dec. 16th, 1895.

CHARU MIHIR,

Dec. 17th, 1895.

SAMAY,

Dec. 20th, 1895.

HITAVADI,

Dec. 20th, 1895.

PRATIKAR,

Dec. 20th, 1895.

PRATIKAR.

public peace. In some cases clothes have been sold to one party and the prices realised from another. The village punchayets should keep an eye on these Cabuli traders.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 31st, 1895.

7. The *Bangavasi* of the 21st December complains that Cabuli oppression in the mufassal is becoming more and more unbearable to the people. Even in Calcutta the oppression by Cabuli hawkers is very great. Only

the other day two women of Garden Reach were brutally treated by a number of Cabulis. If this is the state of things in the metropolis, just think of the condition of helpless village people.

8. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st December complains that at Jayanagar, in the 24-Parganas district, there is a band of *budmashes* headed by a Musalman of the name of Gopal Ganji and his sons. One of these sons Abdul Jubbar,

is in the habit of ill-treating the villagers, violating the chastity of their women, and enticing away women belonging to respectable families. The power and influence of these *budmashes* are very great, and terror-stricken as they are, the villagers do not dare take any steps against their tormentors. The local police seems to be quite helpless, and the Sub-Inspector of the local police-station is either paralysed with fear or won over by favour. Abdul Jubbar has recently been convicted of abducting a married woman by force, but the band of *budmashes*, of which he is the head, has made matters pretty hot for the Jayanagar people. It is therefore urgently necessary that an upright, conscientious and strong Police Sub-Inspector should be sent to Jayanagar to keep the *budmashes* under proper control.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 18th 1895.

9. Babu Siva Chandra Sarkar, of 71, Mirzapur Street, Calcutta, writes in the same paper that on the 18th December last, when he was coming home late in the evening at about 9 P.M., he was waylaid by three *budmashes* near the College Square. He called for the police, but in vain. *Gunda* oppression is growing more and more rampant in the metropolis, and the police is quite unable to cope with it. There is reason to suspect that the police is in the pay of the *budmashes*, or that there is an absence of able and upright men in the Calcutta police.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

KASIPUR NIVASI,
Dec. 14th, 1895.

10. The *Kasipur Nivasi* of the 14th December is alarmed to hear that it is proposed to remove the Munsifi at Hatia in the Noakhali district, to the Sadar, on the ground that the cutchery building is in danger of being encroached upon by the river on which it stands. There is no fear for the present, at least, of such a danger. The real object of the proposed measure, however, seems to be retrenchment of expenditure—the object with which the Bud-Bud Munsifi, in the Burdwan district, the Lalbagh Munsifi, in the Murshidabad district, the Kasba Munsifi, in the Tippera district, and the Meherpur Munsifi, in the Nadia district, were abolished. While, as compared with the steadily increasing revenue from the sale of court-fees, the saving which has been effected by the abolition of these Munsifis has been quite insignificant, the trouble and inconvenience to which suitors have been put by the abolition has been really very considerable.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 16th, 1895.

11. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th December considers the sentence of transportation passed upon one Braja Bauri, of village Masra, in the Bankura district, for having killed his unchaste wife, as too severe. Braja caught his wife in the act of committing adultery, and killed her on the spot. It must have been impossible for him to restrain himself under the circumstances.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 17th, 1895

12. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th December complains of the dilatoriness of the civil courts in Katwa, owing to which the litigants suffer great inconvenience. The present Munsifs take four times the time which was taken by former Munsifs in disposing of a case. The Government should send an additional Munsif to Katwa to help the present incumbents in clearing their files.

13. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th December says:—

Mr. Fisher, Joint-Magistrate of the 24-Parganas.

A Uriya, named Nidhiram, was sentenced by Mr. Fisher, Joint-Magistrate of Alipore, to ten stripes for theft of toddy. Here is an authenticated copy of the finding and sentence which we have procured at a double cost:—

HITAVADI,
Dec. 20th, 1895

"The offence, &c.—Theft of toddy, value annas six, on the 10th of December 1895.

The finding, &c.—Guilty, section 379, Indian Penal Code.

The sentence, &c.—Ten stripes. Property to complainant.
Carried out.

(S.D.) C. FISHER."

The 11th December 1895.

The Joint-Magistrate was himself present at the whipping, and as Nidhiram seemed to him to bear his ten stripes very well, he ordered that another ten stripes should be given to him.

Are we, we ask, living under British rule or under Siraj-ud-daula? We are really surprised that Mr. Fisher proved himself guilty of such barbarity. It is hoped that the new Lieutenant-Governor will enquire into the matter.

HITAVADI.

14. The same paper says that the appointment of the Sub-Registrar of Kushtia and of a local pleader, Babu Gopal Chandra Datta, as Honorary Magistrates, has been productive of inconvenience in different ways. The first does magisterial work every day in addition to his duties as Registrar. The result is that documents that are presented for registration after 12 noon or 1 P.M. are not received that day, and the people presenting them have to wait till the next day. The second tries cases on Thursdays. He has no fixed place for holding trials, and when any case of his clients is fixed for hearing on a Thursday, the suits which he has to try as an Honorary Magistrate are postponed. The parties are thus put to great inconvenience. Pleaders, Mukhtars, and Sub-Registrars should not be appointed Honorary Magistrates.

15. The *Pratikar* of the 20th December draws the attention of the authorities to the fact that the civil and criminal court peons in the mufassal refuse to serve notices and processes unless they get some gratification from the parties on whose behalf they are to be served. The parties have no alternative but to satisfy the peons, as the returns submitted by the latter are the only evidence of the service. The peons grow particularly extortionate when they are deputed to give some party possession of property. Complaints about such exactions by certain peons of the Berhampore courts have lately reached the writer.

PRATIKAR,
Dec. 20th, 1895

16. The same paper points out the inconvenience which is suffered by the people of Berhampore on account of the civil and criminal Courts there being situated in widely distant parts of the town. On account of the distance between these courts, moreover, people involved in criminal litigation have to pay very high fees to get the services of good pleaders. It was the present Lieutenant-Governor who, as Magistrate of Murshidabad, first removed the criminal courts to the local barracks, and proposed, without success, to the District Judge the removal of the civil courts, too, to the same buildings. Now that he is the ruler of the Province, it may be expected that a memorial from the people of Berhampore for the removal of the latter courts to the barracks, which have sufficient accommodation for them, will meet with success.

PRATIKAR.

The inconvenient situation of the civil courts in Berhampore.

17. The same paper attributes the sudden falling off in the number of civil appeals in the Murshidabad district in the current year to the practical abolition of appeals from the decisions of a large number of Munsifs in rent suits of a value below fifty rupees, and to the action of the District Judge in ordering criminal prosecution of certain appellants. Parties therefore do not prefer appeals unless they find that the decisions of the lower courts have inflicted great loss upon them. It is for the judiciary themselves to judge whether they are doing good or evil by thus throwing obstacles in the way of parties seeking justice.

PRATIKAR.

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

18. The *Bangavasi* of the 21st December observes that Indian jurors have to undergo great trouble and expense in attending courts. They have to travel the whole distance from

their homes to the courts, bear the expense of the travel, and dance attendance on courts where, however, there is no adequate accommodation for them. Over and above these inconveniences they are fined. Those who are too much against the abolition of the jury system would do well to see that the Indian jurors are enabled to maintain their dignity. Under existing arrangements they can not maintain their dignity.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

19. Mr. Warde-Jones, observes the *Sanjivani* of the 21st December, while Subdivisional Officer of Govindpur, in the Man-

Sir Charles Elliott and Mr. bhum district, wrote to the Raja of Jheria in the Warde-Jones.

same district calling upon the latter to sell him the proprietary right in a certain rich coal mine. The writer came to be acquainted with this fact so long ago as the month of August last, but as he was aware that Sir Charles Elliott was in the habit of rewarding an erring official, who was found fault with in the Press, he forbore criticising the conduct of the peccant Deputy Magistrate. Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose was made acquainted with all the facts of the case, and he told Mr. Cotton everything connected with the matter. The whole case was then laid before the late Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Warde-Jones was suspended, and the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division was called upon to make an inquiry into the charges preferred against him. Mr. Ainslie was appointed Subdivisional Officer of Govindpur in the place of Mr. Warde-Jones. From all this it was expected that Sir Charles Elliott punish the peccant official. But strange to say, it has been announced in the *Calcutta Gazette* that Mr. Warde-Jones has been transferred to Hazaribagh, where he is confirmed in the post of a third class Deputy Magistrate. It is sincerely to be expected that Sir Alexander Mackenzie will call for the papers connected with the case and do full justice in the matter.

SANJIVANI.

20. Mr. Phillips, observes the same paper, was a great favourite of the late Lieutenant-Governor, and the pranks he played

Mr. Phillips.

first as the Magistrate of Mymensingh, and then as

the Magistrate of Monghyr, were winked at by Sir Charles Elliott. Very lately it was announced in the *Calcutta Gazette* that Mr. Phillips had been transferred to Jessore. This transfer from the salubrious climate of Monghyr to malaria-stricken Jessore was looked upon by the public as an expression of Sir Charles Elliott's disapproval of Mr. Phillip's conduct. But they were soon disabused. In the very next issue of the *Calcutta Gazette* the order for transfer was countermanded.

There seems to be no end to the miscarriages of justice committed by Mr. Phillips. In a recent case he ordered the prosecution of one Bihari Sahu for perjury, without calling upon him to show cause why he should not be thus prosecuted. Bihari moved the High Court, and the latter has characterised the procedure adopted by Mr. Phillips as extremely unlawful. Mr. Phillips, it goes without saying, is unfit for judicial work, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie would do well to transfer him to the Opium or the Forest Department.

SANJIVANI.

Babu Gosain Das, Subdivisional Officer of Nowgong, in the Raj-

Das, Subdivisional Officer of Nowgong, in the Raj-shahi district, Chairman of the Nowgong Local Board and Secretary of the local school. When

Babu Gosain Das was the Subdivisional Officer of Siliguri, he was declared by Lord Ulick Browne as totally unfit for subdivisional work. Gosain Babu was consequently kept in a subordinate position for the last seven or eight years, but he has again blossomed forth into a full-grown Subdivisional Officer. Here are a few of the pranks he is playing in Nowgong :—

- (1) He has no fixed time to attend Court. He goes to Court at 1, 2 or 3 P.M. This is a source of great inconvenience to the litigants.
- (2) He is in the habit of writing a judgment ten or twelve days after he has passed his decision in a case.
- (3) He has invented a strange method of keeping the mukhtars in humour. If he really orders the enlargement of a prisoner on a bail of Rs. 200, he declares that he is admitting him to a bail of Rs. 500.

In this way he enables the mukhtars to demand from their clients a large remuneration for standing bail for them.

- (4) Lately a cow in the local pound was put up for sale. A local pleader offered to purchase her for Rs. 13. The Deputy Magistrate stopped the sale that day, and the next day he himself bought the cow for Rs. 6. The Deputy Magistrate is very fond of meat, and receives a large supply of goats from the local zamindars. A number of these goats is sold by the Deputy Babu, who, a few months ago, realized Rs. 50 in this way. The Deputy Babu is also in the habit of cutting and pulling down trees on the public roads and using them for fuel.
- (5) The Babu has a servant who was twice prosecuted by the police for theft.
- (6) As the Secretary of the local school, Gosain Babu is in the habit of ill-treating the school staff. The late head master greatly offended him. The Secretary had asked the head-master to teach his grand children at home without pay. This the head-master was not willing to do. This was the headmaster's offence number one. In the next place the head-master had enforced against the Deputy Babu's own grand children the rule concerning defaulters and had fined them one anna each. This so much enraged Gosain Babu that he ordered the teachers to go to the Excise Office for their pay. The head-master did not agree to submit to this indignity and resigned his post. The attention of Mr. Martin, the Inspector of Schools, has been drawn to this matter. Babu Gosain Das has lately dismissed the fifth teacher because he failed to go to the Excise Office to draw his pay.

(d).—*Education.*

22. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 19th December says that the Khanekah Madrassa at Sasaram should be amalgamated with the High School of the place. This will be very advantageous to the Madrassa, where the teaching arrangements are not at present as satisfactory as they should be.

23. A correspondent of the *Samay* of the 20th December writes as follows on the management of the Campbell School and Hospital:

- (1) The present Superintendent of the Campbell School and Hospital has curtailed expenditure by appointing native doctors in the place of Assistant Surgeons as House Surgeons and Demonstrators. By this means he may have satisfied the Government, but has certainly lowered the *status* of the school and the hospital. These native doctors are bad as House Surgeons, and worse as Demonstrators and lecturers. Their education is so imperfect that they cannot even correctly pronounce medical terms.
- (2) The comfort and convenience of the patients are never looked after. The patients do not get their diet and medicine in proper time. The House-Surgeons prescribe their diet and medicine without examining or consulting them. It sometimes happens that a patient's diet and medicine are not changed for a whole month, and he sometimes goes on taking a purgative for five or six days together.
- (3) The House-Surgeons do not properly attend to their duties. They while away the most part of their time, and spend half an hour or so in examining the hospital wards.
- (4) The drugs and medicines in stock in the hospital are mostly misappropriated. Some time ago a number of compounders were found misappropriating drugs and medicines, and were dismissed.
- (5) The Superintendent himself is totally unmindful of his duties. The office business is mostly transacted by the clerk, who seems to be all in all in the hospital.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDUGUIDE,
Dec. 19th, 1895.

SAMAY,
Dec. 20th, 1895.

(6) The hospital wards are not well ventilated, and emit a nauseating stench, which drives one almost mad. It is a horrible picture that one comes across in these wards—patients unnursed and uncared for, and smarting under agonising pain.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

24. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st December is of opinion that the system of appointing head-examiners to superintend the work of other examiners and maintain a uniformity of standard in the examination of papers is not serving

any good purpose. Conscientious and hard-working head-examiners are rare, and most of the head-examiners do not properly do their duty. The practice of appointing head-examiners, therefore, is an expensive superfluity. And the Syndicate of the Calcutta University has not done well in increasing unnecessary expense by appointing head-examiners not only for the Entrance Examination, but also for the First Examination in Arts. A uniformity of standard in examining papers could be better maintained if, instead of appointing head-examiners to superintend the work of their assistants, particular examiners were appointed to examine answers to particular questions on a particular subject. If, for instance, there are ten questions on a particular subject in the Entrance Examination, five examiners may be appointed, each of them having to examine answers to two of the questions. But the fact is that, among the members of the Syndicate, there are few who have an experience in teaching. The Syndicate is, so to speak, an abridged edition of the Bar Library of the Calcutta High Court, and to the whims and caprices of its members the interests of the poor examinees are sacrificed.

SANJIVANI

25. The same paper objects to the appointment of Mr. Prothero as head-examiner in history for the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University. Mr. Prothero has written and published a sketch of English history for the use of the Entrance candidates, and as such he is prevented by one of the rules of the Calcutta University from being appointed a head-examiner in that subject. It is said that the Syndicate appointed Mr. Prothero as a head-examiner on being assured by him that he had stopped the sale of his publication. This, however, does not prove to be the case. A friend of the writer, a graduate of the Calcutta University, purchased only a few days ago a copy of Mr. Prothero's book. The writer also wrote to Messrs. B. Banerji and Company, asking whether Mr. Prothero's book was still available for sale, and he was told that the said publication was for sale and could be had of all principal booksellers on a commission of ten *per cent*. From this it is quite clear that Mr. Prothero has deceived the Syndicate by speaking a downright falsehood. Mr. Prothero is a teacher, and nothing could be more disgraceful than that he should resort to double-dealing and falsehood in order to serve a sordid purpose.

DANIK BHARAT
MITRA,
Dec. 22nd, 1895.

26. The *Dainik Bharat Mitra* of the 22nd December says that the fixing of Urdu as a second language in the University examinations in the North-Western Provinces is proving a great obstacle in the way of the educational progress of the people of those provinces. The very alphabet of that language is one which it is extremely hard to master. It is because they have to learn Urdu that the people of the North-Western Provinces are far behind the Bengalis in the matter of education.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 25th, 1895.

27. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 25th December complains that the recent examination of the students of the first-year class in the Medical College was rather a stiff one. The questions on chemistry were not set from text-books read by the students, and no students who had not some acquaintance with *Materia Medica* could answer them. Most of the students therefore are likely to be plucked in chemistry, and Dr. Bomford's new rules are sure to be enforced against them. A large number of the fourth-year students were plucked in Medical Jurisprudence, but were subsequently passed by the grant of a few additional gratis marks. No such mercy is, however, likely to be shown to the first-year students. While passing his new rules, Dr. Bomford had assured the students that the class examinations would be very easy, and any student of ordinary merit, and possessing a tolerable knowledge of his subjects, would be able to pass them. Dr. Bomford has now sadly disappointed the students.

The plucked students will be allowed to attend lectures for one year more, but Dr. Bomford has already issued a notice requiring such of them as intend to avail themselves of the privilege to deposit one year's fee in advance. Dr. Bomford, it is also said, is helping the promoters of the Coates' Memorial College. Does he wish to abolish the Medical College? It is to be hoped that the new Lieutenant-Governor will take pity on the students, and redress their grievances.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

28. The *Charu Mihir* of the 17th December blames the Mymensingh

Water-scarcity in the Mymensingh district.

District Board for not taking any notice of the complaints about water scarcity which are pouring in from the mufassal. The supply of good drinking

water was the main object of the imposition of the Road Cess, and the District Board of Mymensingh has been guilty of culpable neglect of duty in diverting the proceeds of the cess from their legitimate application. When the water scarcity has become so acute in winter, it is easy to guess what the state of things will be in the hot season, if in the meantime the District Board does not lay out a sufficient amount of money in excavating good tanks throughout the district.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 17th, 1895.

29. A correspondent of the same paper says that cholera is raging violently

The silting up of a river in the Mymensingh district.

in Nagarbari, in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district, owing to the residents of the place drinking the stagnant and impure river water.

The mouth of the river at Kapasatia becomes blocked in winter, and its water in consequence becomes unfit for drinking. Formerly, the Jhinai used to flow into this river, and kept up the latter's current all the year round in spite of the blocking of its mouth. But now the Jhinai has taken a different channel. To remove the water grievances of the residents of Nagarbari, it is now only necessary to make the Jhinai discharge itself into this river by constructing an embankment at Nalchhoha. The gradual drying up and stagnation of the river has not only cut short the supply of good drinking water, but has also proved injurious to the river-borne traffic of this part of the country. The District Board has been more than once appealed to on the subject, but in vain. It is hoped Mr. Earle will himself look to the matter.

CHARU MIHIR.

30. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th December says that poor traders and shop-

The Calcutta Municipality.

keepers, who have taken out licenses, are in many cases unnecessarily harassed, through the gross

carelessness of the Calcutta Municipality, by being served with summonses on the alleged ground that they are keeping shops without a license. Here is a case in point. One Shoshee Bhushan Ghoshal, a trader of No. 18, Strand Road, Bhowanipore, had taken out his license for 1894-95. He was nevertheless served with a summons for keeping a shop without a license. The man had, in consequence, to appear before a Bench of Honorary Magistrates at Alipore and show his license. Men like the accused in this case are too poor and timid to sue the Municipality for compensation. That is why the Municipal Officers are so reckless in their conduct. Will these poor people remain subject to such oppression for ever?

HITAVADI,
Dec. 20th 1895.

31. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 21st December severely condemns the

An embezzlement case in the Debhata Municipality in the Khulna district.

conduct of Babu Manmohan Rai Chaudhuri, the Chairman of the Debhata Municipality, in the Khulna district, for withdrawing the suit against

the widow and the surety of the late tax-daroga, who was alleged to have misappropriated a certain amount of municipal money. The co-defendants alleged in their written statements that the money had been embezzled not by the tax-daroga, but, after his death, by Babu Bipin Bihari Datta, Vice-Chairman, and Babu Purna Chandra Rai Chaudhuri, one of the Commissioners, who had also destroyed and altered some municipal records in order to throw the guilt on the deceased tax-daroga. After the submission of these written statements, the Vice-Chairman paid to the Chairman from his own pocket Rs. 232, and had the case against the surety dismissed. After this the Chairman also withdrew the suit against the widow, and thus hushed up the

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

matter to the loss of some Rs. 300 of the rate-payers' money. The rate-payers mustered about 800 strong at a meeting, and carried a resolution informing the Chairman that the widow of the daroga was not a pauper, and the suit against her ought not, therefore, to be withdrawn. The Chairman, who is a mere puppet in the hands of Babu Bipin Bihari, the Vice-Chairman, did not, however, listen to this representation. Considering that similar embezzlements occurred in this municipality more than once before, and that very serious allegations were made against the Vice-Chairman and one of the municipal Commissioners in the present case, it was the duty of the Chairman to have the case decided in the law Court, if only to exculpate the Vice-Chairman and the said Commissioner. It is hoped the Commissioner of the Presidency Division will send for the papers of the case and take what steps he may deem necessary.

Sir Alfred Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, is also requested to judge about the advisability of retaining in service a man like Babu Bipin Bihari Datta, who is also a teacher in the Taki Government School, when such serious allegations against him remain unrebuted.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

BANKURA DARPAH,
Dec. 16th, 1895.

Grievances of female passengers on Indian Railways. 32. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th December suggests the appointment of a Commission to enquire into the grievances of native female passengers on the Indian Railways. The reserving of one whole carriage for native female passengers in each train, and the appointment of female ticket collectors for checking their tickets, would materially help to prevent the commission of outrages which have become very frequent of late. But immediate steps should be taken to reassure native female passengers, for many native females have already stopped journeying by rail

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 23rd, 1895

Ticket collectors on Indian Railways. 33. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 23rd December says that after Bartlett's punishment, and the agitation against male ticket collectors on the Indian railways, quite a panic has seized the ticket collectors. The writer gives a high certificate of character to one William Leslie, a ticket collector at Howrah, and says that there will be no objection to male ticket collectors if men of Leslie's stamp are employed as such. Leslie shows the greatest respect to all female passengers.

(h)—*General.*

BANKURA DARPAH,
Dec. 16th, 1895.

How to check cooly-recruiting abuses. 34. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th December says that though the business of cooly recruitment has struck terror into the hearts of the people, and the Press has been repeatedly urging Government to amend the cooly law, no heed has been paid either to the complaints of the oppressed or to the just representations of the Press, simply because the tea industry brings large profits to the Europeans engaged in it. But it is high time that the Government should adopt measures to check the abuses attending the business of recruitment. They can be to a great extent put down by inserting a provision in the law making it punishable for an employer of labour to purchase coolies from any unlicensed *arkati*, and making such an *arkati*, too, liable to punishment. Fraudulent recruitment has become so common only because employers do not hesitate to purchase coolies from anybody and everybody who brings them for sale. Recently one Sibu Mehta, who is not a licensed *arkati*, enticed away one Giris Mandal of village Narar and sold him for forty rupees at the Lalbazar Cooly Depôt in this district. Giris being an adult, the depôt men had no hesitation in purchasing him, and they have sent him up to the tea-gardens. Even admitting that a man is a saleable commodity, what right had Sibu Mehta, a man who had no sort of connection with Giris, to appropriate to himself the price obtained by selling him? But is there any law by which one man can sell another?

35. The same paper suggests that the income-tax for a year should be realised in three or four instalments instead of in one. The writer then draws attention to the following vagaries of income-tax assessors in the Bankura district:—

(1) Any one who has regular arrangements in his house for the daily worship of his family gods, and performs the periodical pujas, is assessed to a high tax.

(2) The income of a gold or silversmith is assessed at the price of his labour plus the price of one-fourth the amount of silver or gold which he manufactures into ornaments.

(3) A raiyat who has more paddy in his barn than is sufficient for the consumption of his family is assessed for the value of the excess paddy. A raiyat who has a *pueca* house is assessed for the annual value of such house.

Will a man, who is fatter and stouter than his neighbours, be next assessed to a higher tax as being richer than they?

36. Referring to Lord Elgin's alleged refusal to accept the Madras Mahajan Sabha's address, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th December asks: How can Lord Elgin expect to redress the grievances of the people if he

does not like to acquaint himself with them? And if he does not like to redress the grievances of the people, how can he expect to prove himself a good and benevolent administrator? As the ruler of many millions of people, Lord Elgin may safely do without making himself acquainted with the happiness and prosperity of the people, but he must not ignore their wants and grievances which cry for redress. It is earnestly to be expected that Lord Elgin will find his way to give up the wrong and ill-advised policy which is destined to bear evil fruit. The Viceroy should not allow himself to be helplessly guided by his Anglo-Indian advisers. His responsibility is great—far greater than that of his advisers. It does no longer become him to be a helpless tool in the hands of his counsellors, and it is expected that he will soon give proof of his individuality and independence of character.

37. The *Charu Mihir* of the 17th December has the following:—

Lord Elgin's administration. It was at an evil moment that Lord Elgin took charge of the Indian administration. His administration of the country during the last two years has proved him unequal to the task, and he is fast losing his good name and the affection of the people. Indeed, he made a serious mistake in accepting such a responsible office. An Indian Viceroy should be not only an independent and large-hearted man but a far-sighted statesman also. And it is a matter of regret that Lord Elgin has not one of these qualifications. It was hoped that, being himself a Liberal, he would not yield to the influence of his Conservative masters, Lord Salisbury and Lord George Hamilton, or show any narrow-mindedness in his administration. But everybody has been astonished to find that he has proved himself a faithful follower of his new masters. The people of India would have been spared the painful sight of his apostacy, if his Lordship had resigned on the accession of the Conservative party to power.

To briefly review his past administration. What benefit has his administration of the country for two years conferred upon the people? It was hoped that under him frontier wars would be completely put a stop to; but, alas, it is unfortunately under him that the forward policy on the north-western frontier has been fully developed and has received the greatest impetus. The Liberals were opposed to the policy of annexing Chitral, but he has rightly served them by supporting and carrying into effect the Conservative policy of annexing the State. The financial condition of the country has drifted from bad to worse under his administration, and the Military Department has acquired great power.

Lord Elgin's weakness as a ruler became manifest during the discussion of the last year's budget, on which occasion he sacrificed the interests of the people under his charge to the orders of the Secretary of State, and did not even hesitate to lay down the principle that it was the duty of every member of his Council, official or non-official, to blindly support every action of Government. Again, the Jury and the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment

BANKURA DARPAH,
Dec. 16th, 1895.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Dec. 17th, 1895.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 17th, 1895.

Bills now before the Council are measures which would not be introduced in any civilised country in the world. Whether rightly or wrongly, the minds of Native Princes, too, have been filled with alarm at Lord Elgin's administration, and His Excellency has hitherto done nothing to remove this feeling.

The above review will show that under Lord Elgin the spirit of his predecessor's administration has been fully and unwaveringly maintained. However, he has still three years more at his disposal, and it is hoped that he will utilise this period in doing some good to the people of India.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 17th, 1895.

38. Babu Dwijadas Datta, says the same paper, who was formerly an educational officer, is now a settlement officer in Muzaffarpur. But he is trying to revert to the Education Department, because, being a God-fearing and conscientious man, he cannot carry out the orders of his superior officer, Mr. Lyon, who instructs his subordinates to decide every case which arises in the course of the settlement operations in which one party is a tea-planter or an indigo-planter, in favour of the planter.

The same paper says that Sir Alexander Mackenzie and the people of Bengal are not strangers to each other. Bengal, therefore, may hope for much from him, though Heaven only knows whether her hopes will be fulfilled. Sir Alexander should try to avoid the shoals upon which his predecessor's popularity was wrecked. Indeed, the people of Bengal will have no cause of alarm, if His Honour only proves himself superior to civilian influence and is guided entirely by his own sense of justice.

CHARU MIHIR.

39. A correspondent of the same paper urges upon the Postal Superintendent of Mymensingh the necessity of establishing a post office in the interior of thana Durgapur, as Durgapur is more than twenty-five miles from the villages Mantala, Basaura, Changpur, Goja-Kotia, Raghurampur, Bisarpasa, Pugla, Haruliyati, Ranagram, Jaynagar and Chauhatta, some of which contain zamindari cutcherries and are places of residence of rich traders and merchants.

Another correspondent of the same paper requests the postal authorities to establish a branch post office at Rampur, in the Mymensingh district, because, in the absence of such a post-office, the residents of the place do not get their letters, &c., delivered regularly and punctually.

SAHACHAR,
Dec. 18th, 1895.

40. The *Sahachar* of the 18th December has the following observations on the income-tax administration :—

- (1) The system of paying the tax by means of postal money-orders has found great favour with the public, as it saves them much time and trouble.
- (2) The delay which generally occurs in the payment of the tax is due to the neglect of the Collectors to serve notices of demand upon the assessees in proper time.
- (3) In many places wicked men pass themselves off as income-tax assessors upon the people, and commit exactions upon them. It is for oppressions like these in the collection of the tax that political economists have always condemned all direct taxes like the income-tax.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Dec. 18th, 1895.

An illegal act of the Sub-Registrar of Berhampore.

41. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 18th December cannot understand on what authority the Sub-Registrar, of Berhampore destroyed a deed which one Rajkumari Debya, daughter of Babu Nilmani Ganguly, Municipal Commissioner, Government pensioner, and Honorary Magistrate, was about to get executed by one Badal Seikh, and which, but for the accidental discovery that Badal knew nothing of its contents, would have been registered and would have resulted in transferring his whole property to the lady. It is not clear why the Sub-Registrar did not take any further steps against Nilmani Babu or his daughter. It is hoped the District Magistrate will enquire into the matter.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 19th, 1895.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

42. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 19th December has the following :—

Sir Charles Elliott is gone. Even on the eve of his retirement he gave us (the native press) a parting kick. We are not sorry for this. But it certainly gives us sufficient cause for apprehension

and anxiety that Sir Charles, in his parting advice to the Civilians, asked them to defy the native press and disregard its opinion. Will Sir Alexander Mackenzie be able to reassure us and dispel our fear? We hope he will not, like Sir Charles Elliott, allow the Civilians to have every thing in their own way, but will exercise a salutary check on them.

The new Lieutenant-Governor's utterances at the Civil Service dinner give us some hope. Sir Charles Elliott vented his spleen on the native press, and Sir Alexander Mackenzie had consequently to make a passing reference to the press. But he had nothing to say about the native press, and in his speech he evidently made a reference to the Anglo-Indian press when he observed that the newspapers had at times described him as a hard and exacting task-master. But he had so long to deal with backward provinces manned by untrained men, but in Bengal, with its admirably trained service and its sound tradition, he looked forward to no more arduous task than that of devising, if possible, new epithets and phrases of commendation and approval. It is in every body's mind that in Burma and the Central Provinces Sir Alexander had to take many erring officials to task, and for this he was found fault with by a certain section of the Anglo-Indian press. It may be safely taken for granted that, although the new Lieutenant-Governor said something in praise of the Bengal Civilians, he will not, like Sir Charles Elliott, give them indulgence, but will keep them under proper control and salutary restraint. We are led to entertain this hope, because Sir Alexander is a disciple of Sir Ashley Eden, and he says that he will follow the policy of his master. The policy which could not make Sir Ashley very popular will certainly make Sir Alexander so. For after the high-handed policy of Sir Charles, the policy of Sir Ashley will be a change for the better, and will enable the people to breathe a little more freely.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie, in his speech, gave a faint forecast of his policy. The relations between the judiciary and the executive—between the High Court and the Government, especially—were very much strained during the rule of Sir Charles Elliott. Sir Alexander Mackenzie observed in his speech that he could not recognise in an old and highly-organised province like Bengal, any possibility of friction, jealousy or antagonism between the judicial and executive branches of the administration so long as men like Justices Beverley and Macpherson were in the High Court. The manner in which Sir Alexander puts his opinion about the relations between the High Court and the executive may lead one to suspect that he thinks the High Court to be the party which interferes with the independence of the executive. The truth, however, lies the other way. And the new Lieutenant-Governor ought to have been more explicit in his remarks. Be that as it may, Sir Alexander Mackenzie's praise on some of the Bengal officials is well bestowed. Beverley Macpherson, Stevens, Lyall and Toynbee are all very good and conscientious officials. They are at the same time highly popular. They do not belong to the class of officials like Westmacott and Luttman-Johnson.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie becomes the ruler of Bengal. We shall have ample opportunity in future to advise him, and we hope he will lend us his ears. He is a bad ruler who does not listen to his advisers.

43. The *Vikrampur* of the 19th December has the following on the new Lieutenant-Governor :—

**The new Lieutenant-Governor
of Bengal.**

The first thing that the people expect Sir Alexander Mackenzie to do is that he should keep the police and the Civilian Magistracy under proper control. During the rule of Sir Charles Elliott they were suffered to transgress the limits of discipline, and it is high time they were held in check by the new Lieutenant-Governor. Sir Alexander Mackenzie should also try his best to steer clear of favouritism and partiality towards a particular race or section of the people. It should also be his best care to save the people from death from starvation, and never to leave them, helpless and resourceless as they are, to their own fate. Sir Charles Elliott has passed the Drainage Act; Sir Alexander Mackenzie should studiously avoid enforcing the Act so as to necessitate the imposition of a new tax on the people. It will be one of his most important duties to encourage high education, which Sir Charles Elliott always tried his best to discountenance. In conclusion,

VIKRAMPUR,
Dec. 19th, 1895.

there is nothing which is more likely to endear the new Lieutenant-Governor to the people than a mitigation of the rigour of the criminal administration.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 20th, 1895.

44. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th December writes as follows:—

In the course of his speech at the Civilian dinner, Sir Charles Elliott and guilty officials. Sir Charles Elliott enunciated the cardinal policy of his administration : he piqued himself upon never having censured a "peccant colleague" in public, inasmuch as to publicly administer censure to an official was, in his opinion, "to lower the prestige of the service." Before we can pronounce an opinion upon this cardinal principle of Sir Charles Elliott's administration, it would be necessary for us to know what he understands by "prestige." We, however, cannot understand how prestige, such as we understand it, can in any way be affected by the public censure of an official, nor do we believe that this principle of private censure will ever commend itself to the just English Government.

Is a private censure an adequate punishment for all official delinquencies? Will the prestige of Government remain intact if a Magistrate, who, in deference to a man whom he owes money, does injustice to a suitor in his Court, or who, to satify a private grudge, punishes an innocent person, or, in the mere wantonness of power, tramples upon the weak and the helpless, or insults honourable people, is only privately censured? The Magistrates and Judges are servants of Government, and just as servants can lower the prestige of their master by their misdemeanour, so can these officials lower the prestige of Government by theirs, unless the latter should, from a regard to its own prestige, choose to check them.

Censure administered in private seldom produces any good. People can know nothing of this censure? The aggrieved parties are not at all satisfied by such a censure, for they can know nothing about it. Seeing offending officials like Messrs. Radice, Phillips and Beatson-Bell promoted, the people at large, too, conclude that Government is encouraging these guilty officials. Is this the way, then, to maintain prestige? It was a wise saying of the Director of the East India Company that "it is necessary not only that Government should be just, but that the people should know it to be just." No Governor with a sense of responsibility can be content with censuring guilty officials in private. The administration cannot be carried on by rigour alone; rigour can excite dread, but it can never win respect.

If every Civilian is to look upon himself as a would be Lieutenant-Governor, and is accordingly to act arbitrarily, the sufferings of the people will know no bounds. Sir Charles has left this country, and it is heartily to be desired that his principle of administration, too, should vanish from the country with him.

HITAVADI.

45. The same paper says that the Indian people will not object to the repeal of the cotton duties, if the deficit that is to be caused thereby is made up by the abolition of the compensation allowance. Their only objection to the repeal of those duties arises from a fear of a new tax. Otherwise they will welcome the repeal, which, they know, will cheapen English cotton goods. The people of this country have held meetings in different parts of the country to protest against the compensation allowance. It is this allowance which has compelled Government to lay hands upon the fund, which, by a solemn pledge, it reserved for relief purposes exclusively. A Government is sure to suffer, sooner or later, if, in the wantonness of power, it does injustice to its subjects. It is therefore the duty of every loyal subject to warn the Government under which he lives against the consequences of injustice.

HITAVADI.

46. The same paper says that the employés of the Kushtia Treasury are probably great admirers of the adage that "many a mickle makes a muckle," for they refuse to pay people drawing their pensions from that treasury the pies that may be due to them. The invariable explanation for this non-payment is that there are no pies in the treasury. It is surprising that no pies should be kept in a Government treasury. The Sub-divisional Officer and his superiors are requested to enquire into the matter.

47. The *Bangavasi* of the 21st December has the following :—

The new Lieutenant-Governor Sir Alexander Mackenzie assumes the reins of government as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

There is nothing in this change to elate us with joy. There is but one prayer we have to make to the new Lieutenant-Governor. He should not interfere with the religious and social institutions of the people of this country. The Civil Service Dinner speech of the new Lieutenant-Governor has been to many a sufficient cause for indulging in hopeful expectations. But we place no faith in political utterances, as we have been deceived many a time by placing too much confidence in them. Explicit as they are, the utterances of the new Lieutenant-Governor, therefore, do not give us any cause for gratification. We are not inclined to judge him by his utterances; we shall judge him by his acts, and shall be very glad if his acts entitle him to the confidence and affection of the people he will have to rule.

As for Sir Charles Elliott, there was one clear and bold statement in his speech which has highly pleased us. He plainly told his audience that it was a principle of administration with him never to rebuke an erring official in public; if a rebuke was at all necessary, he liked to administer it in private. This policy of maintaining official prestige, this disinclination to wash their soiled linen in public, is what has made the British nation the rulers of many millions of people in a distant and foreign country. There was another characteristic statement made by Sir Charles Elliott in his speech which, however, does not speak highly of his political sagacity. He asked his civilian audience to contemptuously ignore the criticisms of the native press, and always to avoid reading those papers in which unfavourable criticisms were most likely to be met with. Why should Sir Charles Elliott be so inimically disposed towards the native press? The native press, there is no gainsaying the fact, is pre-eminently the making of the British Government. It may not be doing any good service to the people, but there is little doubt that it is doing invaluable service to the Government—to a foreign Government, that is, which is sadly ignorant of the wants and grievances, manners and customs of the subject people. That the British Government, which has disarmed the Indian people, not only tolerates the existence of the native press, but has given it the fullest liberty to criticise its measures is the best proof that the press in India unquestionably helps the rulers in carrying on the work of administration with as little friction as possible. It is true we have lost our independence, but Sir Charles Elliott may rest assured that we have not lost our intelligence, and we are convinced that the native press has been suffered to exist and enjoy its liberty simply because it is a necessary and helpful auxiliary to the British rule in this country. Sir Charles Elliott's utterances, therefore, do no harm to the native press, but they do incalculable harm to the prestige of the Government. They are calculated to shake the confidence of the people in the British rule, and consequently also the foundation on which that rule is based.

48. The same paper observes that it is proposed to increase the rigour

The administration of the Arms of the administration of the Arms Act in Barisal, on account of the recrudescence of murder by fire-arms in that district. Those who have the boldness

to commit murder may also have the boldness to use fire-arms without taking out a license. And the police, which cannot trace murderers, may also fail to trace offenders against the Arms Act. The most likely consequence of the policy of increasing the rigour of the Arms Act administration in Barisal will be to increase the number of deaths among its inhabitants from the attacks of wild animals.

49. The same paper thus comments on Mr. DaCosta's article in a recent issue of *India*, dealing with certain instances of injustice perpetrated by European officials in India

The British rule in India. on certain natives of the country :—

The British Government in India enjoys a reputation for good and impartial administration, which no other foreign Government ever enjoyed in a subject country. The British law, it is true, makes some difference between the ruling race and the subject people in the procedure followed by the law courts in the trial of cases. But that difference is infinitely small, compared with the vast difference which naturally exists between the rulers and the ruled. In most

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

BANGAVASI.

BANGAVASI.

respects the ruler and the ruled, the native and the European, are equal in the eye of the British law, and adequate provisions have been made by it for administering justice to all without any distinction of creed or colour. But still there are miscarriages of justice committed under British rule—instances of oppression and injustice perpetrated by British officials in India. There are blots on the British Government—even in the Government which is remarkable for justice and impartiality. But these blots are not due to the system of the British administration, but to the men who are entrusted with the task of enforcing that system. They are due not to measures, but to men. It is a great relief, however, that although there are blots on the British administration, the British Government has given the subject people the liberty to criticise those blots, and that with remarkable patience and forbearance it listens to the public criticisms, unfavourable as they are, of its acts and measures. Blots nevertheless continue to exist on the British rule, and the existence of these blots is a perpetual source of anxiety and irritation to the Indian people, who do not wish to see the fair fame of the British Government, just and impartial as it otherwise is, tarnished by the errors of its officials. Perhaps these errors are inevitable in an alien Government, and it is a great consolation to the people that they are not at least due to anything inherent in the British constitution.

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

50. The *Sanjivani* of the 21st December has the following on the new Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal:—

Sir Alexander Mackenzie.

During the Ilbert Bill agitation many Anglo-

Indian officials of note cast their lot with the non-official Anglo-Indian community, and opposed that most just and equitable measure of the Government of Lord Ripon. But Sir Alexander Mackenzie stood firm as a rock in the midst of the storm, and did not forsake the cause of truth and justice. When his countrymen in India lost their head over the ill-fated measure, took up arms, so to speak, against its supporters and threatened those Europeans who had taken the side of the Government with ex-communication, Sir Alexander, with his inborn Scotch heroism, upheld the cause of justice even at the cost of his popularity with his countrymen. It is such a man that has now come to rule over the people of Bengal.

As Chief Commissioner of Burma, Sir Alexander Mackenzie gave another striking proof of his unflinching moral courage. The European officials in Burma had been long in the habit of living in adultery with Burmese women. They kept these women as their concubines, had children by them; but when they went away from the country they left them to lead a life of misery, poverty and helplessness. This infamous conduct of European officials in Burma cast a stigma on the British rule, and Sir Alexander at once stood up for humanity and morality. He resolved to stem the current of immorality and vice, and put down the infamous practice of the European officials with a strong hand. And to do this he chose a manly method. He did not like to "administer the censure in private." He publicly censured the peccant officials and threatened to visit their sins with severe punishment. This great moral hero, this upholder of justice and morality, has become the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. He has always proved himself to be a sincere friend of the people, and, as Lord Ripon's Secretary, he did many things to ameliorate their condition. In him the dumb millions of Bengal will find a kind ruler and a generous friend.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Civil Service Dinner speech should be written in letters of gold. "I shall have within reach," said he, "many friendly advisers, European and native, official and non-official, with whom I am in cordial sympathy, and upon whose knowledge of the province up to date I may freely draw." These hopeful utterances of Sir Alexander's comfort and cheer us after five long years of fear and anxiety. It is a great consolation to us to learn that he will consult his native friends in administering the country, and will not, like Sir Charles Elliott, that man of "strong individuality," as Sir Alexander calls him, set public opinion at naught and lightly treat the opinions of his counsellors. Sir Alexander further observed in his speech that his relations with the High Court would be not merely amicable, but intimate. "I do not recognize," he observed, "I never will recognize in this old and highly-organized province, any possibility of friction, jealousy, or antagonism between the judicial and the executive branches of the administration." During Sir

Charles Elliott's rule the opinions of the High Court Judges were held in contempt. The High Court was slighted, and the prestige of the executive was upheld. Miscarriage of justice was rampant in the country, and the executive officers had gone beyond the bounds of discipline. In the face of Sir Charles Elliott, the new Lieutenant-Governor said that he would not encourage official highhandedness, and the maintenance of official prestige would not be his sole care. "We" (the executive and judicial officers), said he, "are one service, working under one Government, seeking not our own individual or sectional advantage and glory, but the common weal of the vast population committed to our charge. I look to you, my brother civilians to aid me in realising and maintaining this the traditional ideal of our service—and to that end God help us all!" We join Sir Alexander Mackenzie in this his prayer, and may we too help him in need with good counsel, and thus aid him in realising his noble ideal of administration! With the new Lieutenant-Governor we too hope that he will not have to feel the necessity of proving a severe taskmaster to the Bengal civilians, and will be able to "look forward to no more arduous task than that of devising, if possible, new epithets and phrases of commendation and approval." "I trust," said Sir Alexander Mackenzie in conclusion, "that we shall together do some useful work, and the less dust we raise in the doing of it, the better I think it will be for the country and for ourselves." Sir Charles Elliott raised a cloud of dust during his rule. The accumulated dust of five years has darkened the horizon. We shall be very glad if he can throw oil on troubled waters, and give the people rest and peace.

51. The same paper understands that the Government has made a grant of nine thousand rupees for the building of a church in Darjeeling. The Government, which complains of eternal want of pence when it has to meet some urgent and necessary demand made in the public interest, does not grudge to maintain a highly-paid Christian clergy at the cost of Hindus and Musalmans who derive no benefit whatever from the expenditure thus incurred.

52. The *Darsak* of the 22nd December welcomes Sir Alexander Mackenzie as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. It is to be expected that the new Lieutenant-Governor will give the people that rest and peace which they knew not during the five years of Sir Charles Elliott's administration. That he will do so is what one can safely infer from his utterances. Sir Alexander Mackenzie says that he will follow in the footsteps of his master, Sir Ashley Eden. Sir Ashley Eden's administration was not indeed surpassingly popular, but it had many good points. One was that it made no distinction between natives and Europeans. Sir Ashley Eden may in a manner be regarded as the person who initiated the Ilbert Bill, for it was he who first submitted proposals to the Government of India for empowering native civilians in the mufassal to try European criminals. Sir Ashley Eden also encouraged agriculture, and it was he who established scholarships for the purpose of educating natives in agriculture in the Cirencester College. If Sir Alexander Mackenzie follows in the footsteps of his master, he will no doubt succeed in materially improving the internal administration of the country.

53. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, observe the *Chinsura Vartavaha* of the 22nd December, has become the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. For five years he will rule over the people of Bengal and will be held responsible for their weal and woe. If during his rule he can make seventy millions of people happy and contented, he will earn their sincere gratitude and regard. Sir Charles ruled the people with a high hand, and it is to be sincerely expected that Sir Alexander will give them relief.

54. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 23rd December says that nothing is calculated to make the people of this country so discontented with British rule as failures in the administration of justice. Under Sir Charles Elliott the Magistracy were subjected to executive pressure to an extent which made it impossible for them to heed the dictates of their conscience in the performance of their judicial work. In consequence, injustice and oppression prevailed to an alarming extent. Sir Alexander Mackenzie is not a reckless, hasty

SANJIVANI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

DARSAK,
Dec. 22nd, 1895.

CHINSURA
VARTAVAH,
Dec. 22nd, 1895.

SULABH DAINIK,
Dec. 23rd, 1895.

ruler like Sir Charles, and it is to be hoped that he will correct the evils which have crept into the administration of Bengal. His first duty should be to show every respect to the High Court and to punish all those Magistrates who may be censured by that Court. The executive, too, will need proper control. The writer fully hopes that under the new Lieutenant-Governor Bengal will regain its peace of mind.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA
Dec. 24th, 1895.

55. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, observes the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 24th December, advises Lord Elgin to consult the *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* advice to the Viceroy. The *Patrika's* opinion of the leaders of native society in administering the country. The *Patrika's* advice is sound and seasonable, but it must be still in its mind how, during the agitation over the Jury Notification, a Maharaja, who had been invited to offer his opinion on the question, was uncourteously treated by one of the Viceroy's councillors. The late Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar was treated with scant respect when he interviewed Lord Lansdowne for the purpose of acquainting His Excellency with the opinion of the Hindu public on the Consent Bill. Even if a Viceroy be a good man, his councillors are the embodiment of haughtiness and vanity. And it is not an easy matter to make oneself heard by the Viceroy through them.

HITAISHI,
Dec. 24th, 1895.

56. Referring to the remark made by Sir Alexander Mackenzie in the course of his Civil Service Dinner speech that in the work of administration he would consult the opinions of his friends among the non-official natives and Europeans, the *Hitaishi* of the 24th December observes that there is nothing in this to make the public elated with joy. Every Governor-General and Lieutenant-Governor give such hopeful assurances on assuming the reins of Government. But their acts do not always tally with their words. There is of course no reason to suspect that the new Lieutenant-Governor will not prove true to his word. But it is not advisable to expect a good deal from a ruler and afterwards to find that expectation falsified.

HITAISHI

57. The same paper observes that every year a mock fight and review are held of British soldiers in Shapur, a village in the 24-Parganas district. Before the event takes place the inhabitants of the place are warned to take proper care of their life and property, and they are plainly told that the Government will not be responsible for any mishap that may occur. This is indeed bad. It is not in the power of the helpless village people to protect themselves against the British soldiers, and nothing could be more objectionable than that the Government should fail to make proper arrangements for their protection before the soldiers are allowed to manoeuvre in their midst. The soldiers are, on such occasions, in the habit of ill-treating the weak and inoffensive villagers. They do injury to their property, sometimes set their huts on fire, and do not even hesitate to violate the chastity of their women. Surely, the people are not living under the rule of a Serajud-daula or a Nero. They live under the rule of the British Government, and it is certainly a disgrace to that Government that it should allow such acts of oppression to be perpetrated, so to speak, with its sanction and approval.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

GAYA PUNCH,
Dec. 16th, 1895.

58. The following is the purport of a poem on the Pilgrim Ships Act published in the *Gaya Punch* of the 16th December:—
A poem on the Pilgrim Ships Act. It is said that the Pilgrim Ships Act has been passed in the face of Musalman opposition. Accursed be the dissension, the selfishness and the ignorance which have so greatly lowered our dignity. Alas! for the fratricidal war which has cast such a shadow on the grace of Islam. O Musalmans, to-day many of you are declared unfit to go on pilgrimage, and to-morrow every one of you may be forbidden to undertake the same. Sayed Hossan Khan of Bhopal is no longer living to protest against the Act. O Vikar-Ul-Mulk of Hyderabad, how is it that you are silent over the matter? O Queen Empress of India, and O Viceroy, your Musalman subjects of India had once their own national kings. It does not become you to dissatisfaction them and to make them disloyal. You should not kindle the fire of their wrath—a fire which lies hid in their heart like

the fire latent in stone, but which, if it is once kindled by friction with the flint of hostility, will envelope the whole world in flame.

59. Referring to proposed amendment of the Sea Emigration Act, the

Sanjivani of the 21st December observes that the
The proposed amendment of the Sea Emigration Act. Act should be so amended as to save the Indian emigrants from the ill-treatment they receive at the

SANJIVANI.
Dec. 21st, 1895.

hands of the English colonists. It is not known whether the proposed amendment has this benevolent object in view, or simply intends to forge new fetters for the Indian emigrants. One thing, however, is clear. The Government should cease sending Indian emigrants to the European colonies if it cannot protect them from oppression and ill treatment.

60. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 21st December says that on the 28th

The Central National Muhammadan Association and the draft rules under the Pilgrim Ships Act. November last, the Government of Bengal sent a copy of the draft rules framed under the Pilgrim Ships Act for the Musalman pilgrims of Bengal to the Secretary to the Central National Muhammadan Association for the favour of their opinion. The peon, who was to have delivered the packet to Syed Ameer Hossein, Secretary to the Association, by mistake left it with Mr. Abdur Rahman, Secretary to the Muhammadan Literary Society. Mr. Rahman seems to have read the rules himself, for there were many pencil marks in the copy, but did not consider it necessary to send over the papers to the right party. After fifteen days a reminder was sent by Government; but this reminder, too, was left with Mr. Rahman, and even the receipt of this reminder did not lead him to send the rules to the proper party. However, it pleased him to send over the papers to Nawab Ameer Hossein on the 13th December. The latter was puzzled when the papers reached him, because, on opening the letter, he found that the opinion was to be sent in within the 16th December. However, he hastily called a meeting of the Association, on the next Sunday, the 15th December. The way in which the rules were considered by the Association was very perfunctory. The assembled members, after spending the greater part of their time in smoking cigars and *hookas*, and in discussing idle topics, resolved to call for an explanation from Mr. Abdur Rahman, and were about to leave when one or two members, who have an interest in shipping business, suggested slight alterations in the rules. The meeting then resolved to send the rules back to Government the next day. It is sure that not a single member took the trouble to go through the whole of the rules. But it is an Association like this, consisting of a handful of English-educated, self-seeking Muhammadans of Calcutta, that poses as the representatives of the twenty millions of Musalmans of Bengal. And it is the opinion of such a body that is accepted by Government as the opinion of the entire Muhammadan community of Bengal. Will the mass of the Musalmans be to blame if they find fault with the rules when they are passed and published?

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

It is idle to complain of the conduct of Mr. Abdur Rahman, or of that of the members of the Central National Muhammadan Association, in not asking for more time from Government for a thorough consideration of the rules. There are many vacancies in the Honours list this year, and they dare not give the slightest offence to the authorities. So far as they are themselves concerned, the rules, whether good or bad, will not affect them.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

61. There has been a complete failure of crops, says the *Bankura Darpan*

Public health and crop prospects in the Bankura district. of the 16th December, in the eastern and north-eastern parts of the Bankura district. The people in certain parts, moreover, are suffering greatly

from fever and cholera. In the eastern and north-eastern parts of Vishnupur especially there is hardly a family the members of which have not been laid up with malarial fever.

BANKURA DARPAN.
Dec. 16th, 1895.

62. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* of the 17th December publishes a letter from

Prospects of crops in the Katwa subdivision of the Burdwan district. a correspondent, in which it is observed that no more than a six-anna crop is expected in the Katwa subdivision. Malaria and cholera have also broken

out with all their violence. The water of tanks has been drained for irrigation purposes, and the people are greatly suffering from scarcity of water.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI
Dec. 17th, 1895.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BANKURA DARPAN,
Dec. 16th, 1895.

63. The *Bankura Darpan* of the 16th December writes as follows:—

The price of a native's life.

The life of every animal, other than an insect or a worm, has a price. There is a price for the life of a native of India, but that price is not always fixed. In the celebrated Fuller case it was fixed at Rs. 30, certainly a very high sum. But usually, the price is held to be much smaller, and sometimes absolutely nil. A native's life is appraised on the above principle only when the question is between a European and a native. As between one native and another, the full natural value is set upon either's life. A native who kills another must pay for his victim's life with his own. In the case of a European who kills a native, it is not even found necessary to send the culprit to a house of correction; for a person who is already pure and immaculate does not certainly need correction and purification. The law provides even separate courts of justice for the trial of European culprits. And it is not strange that Europeans should be tried, convicted and sentenced on principles different from those which apply to native criminals. It may appear anomalous that when European Magistrates deal so leniently with European criminals, the native Magistrates should not deal similarly with native culprits. But the anomaly is explained when it is known that native Magistrates run the risk of losing their appointments if they deal leniently with native criminals. A black native must expect no favour, be he a man of position in Government service, or the owner of millions. The case of Raja Suryakanta will never be forgotten, and the case of the munsif of Madras must still be fresh in the mind of many. Why then should natives make so much noise about their honour? Their honour indeed! Their very lives have no value in the eye of Europeans.

CHARU MIHIR,
Dec. 17th, 1895.

64. The *Charu Mihir* of the 17th December has the following:—

The conflict of interests between England and India.

We are alarmed to think of the probable consequence of the conflict of interests which has now-a-days become so frequent between England and

this country. There was no such conflict so long as India did not venture to claim a separate existence for herself and depended entirely upon England's mercy. It is India's political progress which is making the antagonism of interests between the two countries so conspicuous. The English people are not prepared to see any of those channels stopped or diverted which bring wealth to their country. The agitation on the cotton duties, though a small matter in itself, is fully significant of the real attitude of the English people towards the people of India. The English obtained a footing in this country as merchants, and now, though they have obtained mastery over the whole empire, they cannot change their character as a nation of traders.

India would not have become poorer and weaker every day if England had levied from her only a fixed tribute. It is a matter of regret that the English people should not themselves realise this, and should charge the native Press with sedition if it ventures to refer to the fact. The *Globe* and other English newspapers gravely advise the Government to deprive the native Press of its liberty, merely because it dwells upon the indigent and starving condition of the Indians, and contrasts it with the luxury in which the Anglo-Indians, not to speak of Englishmen, live. Alas! that people who by word and deed are incessantly labouring to make the Indians lose their respect and loyalty for the British rule, and increasing the Indians' load of misery by advising Government continually to extend its territory and increase its expenditure, should be regarded as loyal subjects of Her Majesty, and that the native Press, which points out the defects of the Government with the view of getting them corrected and of ensuring the stability of the empire, should be regarded as disloyal. Such definitions of loyalty and disloyalty would not have been heard of in India if it had not been subject to foreign rule.

The conflict of interests between England and India is inevitable, and will last for all time. Except a few hill stations, the country, owing to its climate, is not fit for European colonisation, and the English people, as a nation, cannot therefore feel or have any permanent interest in it. England, too, has to

maintain its prosperity entirely at India's cost. It is impossible that the interests of the Indian and the English people should be one and the same under such circumstances.

65. The same paper has the following:—

Prestige of Englishmen in India are worshippers of prestige. An insult offered to the meanest Englishman in India.

India is regarded as an insult offered to the prestige of the British nation, and causes uneasiness even to the highest rulers in the country. A railway ticket collector, an Englishman, commits rape upon a native woman and is convicted on the evidence of a companion who is also an Englishman. The authorities of the railway, who are all Englishmen, consider the conduct of the witness as detrimental to the prestige of Englishmen in India, and dismiss him from service. As a matter of fact, it is nothing but anxiety to maintain the prestige of Englishmen in India that prevents due punishment being meted out to European culprits who kill natives, and leads to the adoption of the pleas of 'accidental death' and 'rupture of the spleen' in such cases. Many Englishmen do not in the least feel ashamed to speak falsehood in order to maintain their prestige. They seem to think that the prestige of Englishmen in India ought to be vindicated at any cost. But this is a serious mistake. British rule in India will not suffer by any shock to this false prestige. Nay, it is the wrongs committed in the name of such prestige that are likely to weaken that rule.

CHARU MIMA.

66. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 19th December says that Sir Alexander Mackenzie and

S r Alexander Mackenzie was invited to the fare-well entertainment accorded by the Calcutta Musalmans

to Sir Charles Elliott, but he did not attend it,

most probably to avoid giving rise to an impression in the public mind that he had any partiality towards the Musalmans. The new Lieutenant-Governor acted wisely in not taking part in the political demonstration of a particular section only of the Bengal community. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, it seems, has made up his mind to be just and impartial in his dealings with the people.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA,
Dec. 19th, 1895.

67. The *Vikrampur* of the 19th December says that cholera has broken

out in an epidemic form in the villages of Bejgan, Dighali and Dualli in the Munshiganj subdivision

of the Dacca district. The rate of mortality is high, and many are dying for want of medical treatment. The Subdivisional Officer of Munshiganj should lose no time in sending a few medical practitioners with proper medicines to the rescue of the suffering villagers.

VARTABAHAN,
Dec. 19th, 1895.

68. The *Hitavadi* of the 20th December says that the generous words which

Sir Alexander Mackenzie spoke the other day at the Civil Service Dinner awaken the hope that he will not

take delight in oppressing Bengal. He has been in this country for more than 30 years, and has known the Bengalis for a long time. Everybody therefore hopes that his administration will be satisfactory. It is also a good sign that His Honour did not accept the invitation to attend the party that was given by Mr. Abdur Rahman in honour of Sir Charles Elliott. The people are reassured to know that His Honour will not mix himself up with party quarrels.

HITAVADI,
Dec. 20th, 1895.

69. A correspondent of the same paper says that malaria is committing

Malaria at Daulatpur in Manikganj, Dacca district. ravages at Daulatpur in the Manikganj subdivision of the Dacca district. Four or five persons are dying every day. During the last three or four

months three to four hundred persons have been carried off by malaria and cholera. There are families in which all the members are laid up with illness. There is no good medical man at or near Daulatpur. The epidemic is spreading to neighbouring places. The villagers applied to the Magistrate and the Subdivisional Officer for help, but in vain.

HITAVADI
Dec. 20th, 1895

70. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* of the 21st December writes that

Health and crops in Syampur in the Howrah district. the prospects of crops in Syampur in the Howrah district are extremely miserable. No more than an eight-anna crop is expected, which is not even sufficient to pay the zamindar's dues. Cholera prevails in Bongram, another village in the same district. The people of Syampur have not yet been delivered

BANGAVASI,
Dec. 21st, 1895.

from the danger to life and property resulting from artillery practice by soldiers in its vicinity.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKAL DIPKA,
Nov. 23rd, 1895.

71. The *Utkal Dipika* of the 23rd November opposes those provisions of the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill that are directed against the independence of pleaders and mukhtars practising in mufassal Courts. The writer urges that Government should take the representation of the legal practitioners, who assembled at the Town Hall in Calcutta in considerable numbers a few days ago, to discuss their interests, as affected by the Bill in question, into their favourable consideration, and pay it such attention as it deserves.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-
VAD,
Nov. 18th & 20th
1895.

72. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 13th and 20th November is disappointed to learn that the Government of India have supported the Resolution of the Central Provinces Administration to substitute *Hindi* in the place of *Uriya* in the Courts of Sambalpur, and is disconsolate over the settlement of the issues in an adverse way. The *Samvadvahika* of the 14th November exhorts the Uriya-speaking public of the three provinces to bring the matter to the notice of the Secretary of State for India, and to make it a subject for Parliamentary interpellation.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-
VAD.
Nov. 18th, 1895.

73. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 13th November informs the authorities that the portion of the Grand Trunk Road, lying between Soro and Balasore in the Balasore district, is infested by cheats and robbers who injure the passengers that travel along that road in various ways.

URIYA AND NAVASAM-
VAD.
Nov. 18th, 1895.

74. The same paper is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should lose no time in moving the Government of India to revive *panga* salt industry in Orissa by causing the Salt Department to be transferred from the supervision of the Madras Board of Revenue to that of the Bengal Board of Revenue. The *Utkal Dipika* of the 23rd November holds a similar opinion.

SAMVADVAHIKA,
Nov. 14th, 1895 ;
AND
URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 13th, 1895.

75. The *Samvadvahika* of the 14th November and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 20th November are sorry to note that the settlement operations in Orissa have proved a fruitful source of dispute and mischief; for these who managed, somehow or other, to have their names entered in the *khatians* and *parchas* as tenants or tenure-holders, are cutting away paddy and keeping the same in their secure possession, though the paddy belongs to others, who have similar or joint interests with them, and who are deprived of the produce of their land, because their names do not occur in the settlement *parchas* or *khatians*. The latter do not obtain any relief from the Criminal Courts that admit the *parchas* and *khatians* in evidence, and refer them to seek redress in the Civil Court.

UTKAL DIPKA,
Nov. 16th, 1895.

76. The *Utkaldipika* of the 16th November is of opinion that pensioners drawing pensions from Government, should be allowed the privilege of receiving the same by a system of money-order, and thus relieved of a regular compulsory attendance at the treasury.

UTKAL DIPKA,
Nov. 16th, 1895.

77. The same paper advises Government not to be in haste in giving effect to the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act, which is not a wise measure, and which was passed in the teeth of great opposition.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Nov. 14th, 1895 ;
AND
URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Nov. 20th, 1895.

78. The *Samvadvahika* of the 14th November and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 20th November report cholera in and around Balasore, and attribute the same to a wave of pilgrims that passed through Balasore, spreading the germs of the disease as it advanced.

UTKAL DIPKA,
Nov. 23rd, 1895.

79. The *Utkaldipika* of the 23rd November approves of the policy of Government in entrusting select Subordinate Judges of the Provincial Civil Service with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge.

The vesting of certain Subordinate Judges with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge.

80. The same paper is sorry to notice that the rent receipts, prescribed by Government, for use in Orissa are inconveniently large in size, and their Uriya translation not very clear in certain places. The writer suggests that their compulsory use should be widely notified to the public, as many landlords and tenants are yet ignorant of their existence.

UTKALDEPIKA,
Nov. 23rd, 1895.

ASSAM PAPERS.

81. The *Paridarshak-o-Srihattavasi* for the 1st fortnight of Paus, 1302 (B.S.), complains that in selecting Honorary Magistrates in Sylhet no regard is had to their qualifications. In the subdivisions of Habiganj, Karimganj and Maulavi Bazar very incompetent men have been appointed Honorary Magistrates. In the Maulavi Bazar subdivision a few Europeans have been appointed to the Honourary Bench. These men are thoroughly ignorant of the manners and customs of the people, and as such are unfit to be entrusted with judicial work. It is also a matter of regret that in the Sadar there is no Bench of Honorary Magistrates, while there are such Benches in the mufassal. This is strange. The District Magistrate should take this matter int his consideration when he will have to select an Honorary Magistrate in the place of Maulvi Abdul Kader, who has lately died.

82. The same paper has the following in English:—

The Sylhet Jail. "For some time past all sorts of complaints were reaching us about the management of the local jail, and if we did not advert to them so long, it was not because we were indifferent to them, but because we liked that before rushing into print, we should be in possession of facts and figures to bring home to the Government the reasons that have led to these complaints.

It was only a few days ago that we were allowed to see the jail by its present Superintendent, Dr. Banerjee, whose kindness and affability of disposition are too well known to require any lengthy notice from ourselves.

The Jail compound, with its vegetable garden, its wells and tanks, yards and buildings is really magnificent, and at the same time very neat and clean. From a sanitary point of view, we confess we found all that could be desired. The arrangement about latrines and drinking water reflects no little credit upon the present Superintendent, and those who serve under him. Although we walked past for some time round those long rows of latrines, we felt that our olfactory nerves were none the worse for it.

A few words about the water used for drinking. Four brick-built chambers have been constructed for that purpose on the well below, and the water is drawn from there and put into the first chamber, from where it finds its way by means of little holes into the second and third chambers filled up with purifying substances, and reaches the fourth, which is joined by a pipe to the wall just against it. We were told that these reforms were introduced by Dr. Banerjee. If that be so, all that we can say is that he deserves all praise.

But if we so long dwelt upon the bright side of the picture that was presented to us, we certainly did not lose sight of the other side, appearing, as it did, to us, darker by far than the one already referred to. We saw the convicts arrayed in one line round the big yard in the interior of the jail. The majority of them looked haggard, some of them thin almost to emaciation, no better than the shadows of their former selves. We saw their miserable diet consisting of the coarsest possible rice. The quality of the diet is such that the convicts of the higher classes cannot possibly swallow up and digest, and for those of the lower classes we think the quantity is barely sufficient to satisfy their hunger. Add to this the other hardships which the prisoners are put to.

Think of a poor convict getting up before sunrise and managing to eat his scanty meal almost in no time, that he may be ready to go on working unceasingly till dusk. Not only this, he has also to go a long way off to work in the tea-gardens, where he cannot expect anything like kind treatment. Think also what cheers await them on their return from out-door work. A nasty meal in the barest possible form. Really facts like these often make us forget that a great Christian Government is presiding over our destiny.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI,
for the first fortnight
of Paus, 1302 B.S.

PARIDARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI.

We are aware of the existence of a Christian mission here, and we shall be very glad if they could do anything for these poor and unfortunate people in the jail. Real credit belongs to those who can redeem the low and the fallen. For the present we intend to say no more, as we have a mind to revert to the subject again."

PARIKARSHAK-O-
SRIHATTAVASI,
for the first fortnight
of Paus, 1302B.S.

83. The same paper has the following in English:—

The falsifying of public records "We are surely fallen on evil times. One in Sylhet. Babu Benode Behari, who came out as Munsif in

Sonamunge some time last year, does not seem to have that much honesty which it is essentially necessary that one in his position should have.

"We are sorry to have to observe that in a recent case before the Sub-divisional Officer of that place certain facts came to light which reflect no little discredit upon the service to which he has the honour to belong.

"Some time before the Puja vacation it so happened that one Jagut Chandra Dutt had to give his deposition before him. In the course of which he made certain statements which were, though perfectly reconcilable, considered by him as contradictory, and the witness was committed to the Magistrate for perjury under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code. The witness in question swore an affidavit to the effect that his deposition was not read over to him, and that he was not aware whether it was recorded faithfully. He cited as witness, if we are rightly informed, almost all the pleaders engaged in this case, and all of them were unanimous in their testimony before the Magistrate that their deposition was not read over to him, although the certificate 'read over' was attached to it as usual. The Magistrate also found this to be the fact, and we would do well to quote his judgment, which briefly reveals a state of things sufficiently alarming.

'The accused has been charged in an alternative form for making two contradictory statements before the Munsif of Sonamunge.'

'It has been proved by defence witnesses that the deposition was not read over to the accused after it was recorded: I believe in the evidence of these witnesses. The tone of the evidence of the prosecution witnesses tends to support the allegation that the accused's deposition was not read over to him. I consider this to be a grave irregularity.'

'The direction contained in section 182, Civil Procedure Code, is imperative, and, if the evidence has not been read over, the whole proceeding is irregular and cannot be admitted in a trial for perjury based on it.'

'It will be seen from particular statements quoted in the charge that the accused made his second statement with a qualification 'ଟିକ ଅବଶ୍ୟକ.' In both the statements he gave the number of years from guess. So the statements are not wholly irreconcilable.'

* * * * *

'I am therefore of opinion that the accused cannot be convicted under section 192, Indian Penal Code. He is therefore acquitted under section 258, Civil Procedure Code.' From the judgment quoted above, two things are sufficiently clear, namely, that the deposition in question was not read over to the witness, and that the prosecution could not stand even on the merits; the statements quoted in the charge being reconcilable. The Magistrate believed the witnesses for the defence, and they not only deposed to say that this particular deposition was not read over, but they went further and said that depositions are not generally read over when completed, although the usual certificate "read over" have been found by them attached to all the certified copies that they have come across. Now what faith can people have in a man who does not scruple to certify depositions as "read over," although he knows perfectly well that they were not read over. Is not this falsifying public records? To many it may seem a small matter, but for ourselves we are not at all disposed to treat it in that light and pass it over in silence. Is not this very serious that people should be prosecuted on the strength of depositions so recorded? We therefore beg to draw the particular attention of the High Court and of the Local Government to this important disclosure. We were glad if this were the only complaint against him. Another affidavit has been sworn the other day before the Judge by Babu Basanta Kumar Ray, a very respectable pleader of

his Court. It contains very serious allegations against him, and in the interests of justice it is necessary that they should be cleared.

"As we have no copy of the affidavit that was filed, we could not publish it in this issue, but at the same time we are in a position to say that it was sworn in support of an application for the transfer of a miscellaneous case instituted by the Munsif against the pleader in question under the Legal Practitioners' Act from off his file. The Judge, we are glad to observe, has called for an explanation from the Munsif, ordering to stay proceedings meanwhile. The matter being *subjudice*, we refrain from passing any remarks about the justice or otherwise of the institution of this proceeding."

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,
Offg. Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 28th December, 1895.